

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Jim Heard (Select Board Liaison), Casey Leonard, Ed Libby, David Olivas, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward. **Absent:** Pete Brown, Pete Conover.

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:19 pm.

Minutes: Ed Libby moved to accept the December 12, 2012 minutes as presented, Brian Robinson seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

SPECIAL SESSION

Committee Goals for 2013: Ray began the Special Session by outlining various committee goals for the coming year: (1) Reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, (2) Supporting the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Bond Vote, (3) Helping Select a New Parks and Recreation Director, (4) Revising the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, and (5) Developing a List of Needs and Future Uses for Parks and Recreation Properties. It was suggested that the committee add the following goals to the list: (6) Visiting Every Park Once a Year, (7) Installing New Signs at the Bay Street Overlook, Mt. Battie Trailhead on Megunticook Street, and Maiden Cliff Access on Route 52, (8) Developing Permanent Markers for Camden Parks and Recreation Properties, and (9) Exploring the Feasibility of a Visit Curtis Island Day.

Director's Job Description: Committee members suggested that the job description for a new Parks and Recreation Director should emphasize the increased role of running a year-round, four-season recreational program (not just the skiing operation) that appeals to the entire community of children, teenagers, adults, and retirees. Ray will send that suggestion to the Town Manager, and committee members were also encouraged to forward any other suggestions regarding the Director's Job Description directly to the Town Manager.

Committee Policy Review: Minor changes to the Policy adopted in November 2009 were discussed and approved, including adding "a member of the Pathways Committee" to the third paragraph of Section 1 re Committee liaisons and, under Section 2 re Duties of the Committee, deleting the words "and the Town Manager" in paragraph (4), adding the words "or needs" after "evaluate the plans" at the beginning of paragraph (5) and changing the words "will serve" to "may serve" in that same paragraph. Ray will make sure these changes are given to the Select Board and/or recorded at the Town Office.

Strategic Plan Review: Committee members discussed the Goals and Objectives under the Strategic Plan document dated 9/1/10. It was decided that more emphasis should be placed on the "connectability" of the Town's recreational resources, on making Camden a biking mecca for all seasons, on developing unobstructed flat walking areas for seniors, on creating a community playground for children, on promoting safety for little kids, on publicizing the "water quality" of our public swimming areas, on supporting "adaptive" sports and recreation, and on creating greater year-round accessibility to facilities for persons of all ages and abilities. It was also noted that the goal of a "dog park" has been fulfilled with the new facility at the PAWS Animal Shelter. Ray will make these revisions to the Strategic Plan for further review and discussion.

Comprehensive Plan Review: Committee members suggested a few minor changes to Chapters 5 and 6 of the Comprehensive Plan, which Ray will convey to Jean White.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Ray reported that the previously discussed idea of a Town vote in June on a \$2 million bond issue has been moved to November. Beth added that the Redevelopment Committee has reached \$3.3 million in fundraising, with the Kuller family pledging \$75,000 in matching funds. Beth will distribute copies of the Redevelopment timeline to Committee members.

US National Toboggan Championships®: Beth mentioned that this morning's safety meeting went well. She also reported that registrations for the two-person sleds is almost full, with the three-person and four-person classes filling fast. She added there has been little feedback on this year's plan to charge those setting up ice shacks/tents for the event a \$20 registration fee for cleaning up afterwards.

Pathways: No report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Income: Beth reported that Christmas Week ski passes reached \$76,000, up from \$35,000 last year and even better than the \$72,000 recorded in 2010. Season passes are creeping up too due to this year's early snowfall.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Study Group: Ray will represent the Committee on a work group studying the design of a river to harbor walk and potential redesign of the public landing. Ed Libby also expressed interest in being part of the work study group.

David Olivas moved to adjourn, Ed Libby seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0 at 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen